ELL Reader

Social Studies

Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Narrative Nonfiction	• Memorials • Artistic Expression • Citizenship	• Historical Photographs • Captions • Definitions	• Suffix *-ful*

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3.6.3

PEARSON
Scott Foresman
scottforesman.com

ISBN 0-328-14184-4
9 780328 141845 90000

Social Studies

The Wall of Names

by Josephine Marquardt







The Wall of Names

by Josephine Marquardt





Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York
Sales Offices: Needham, Massachusetts • Duluth, Georgia • Glenview, Illinois
Coppell, Texas • Sacramento, California • Mesa, Arizona



The National Mall is a large park in Washington, D.C.



In 1975, the Vietnam War ended. The United States had sent many Americans to Vietnam, a country in Asia, to help fight the war. Many brave soldiers died in that war. Many were missing. These people gave their lives to serve their country.

When the war was over, people wanted to find a way to remember and honor the people who had died. Vietnam War veterans in the United States began to raise money for a memorial.

---

veterans: people who served in the armed forces

memorial: something that is a reminder and that honors people or events





President Jimmy Carter



The project had the support of the U. S. Congress and President Jimmy Carter. On July 1, 1980, he signed a bill. The new law set aside two acres of land on the National Mall for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

A group of veterans decided to hold a contest to decide what kind of memorial to build. They invited people to create designs for the memorial. Throughout the country, artists, architects, and sculptors (artists who make statues) began work on designs for the memorial.

---

bill: a planned law

designs: plans showing how something will be built

architects: people who design buildings and other structures

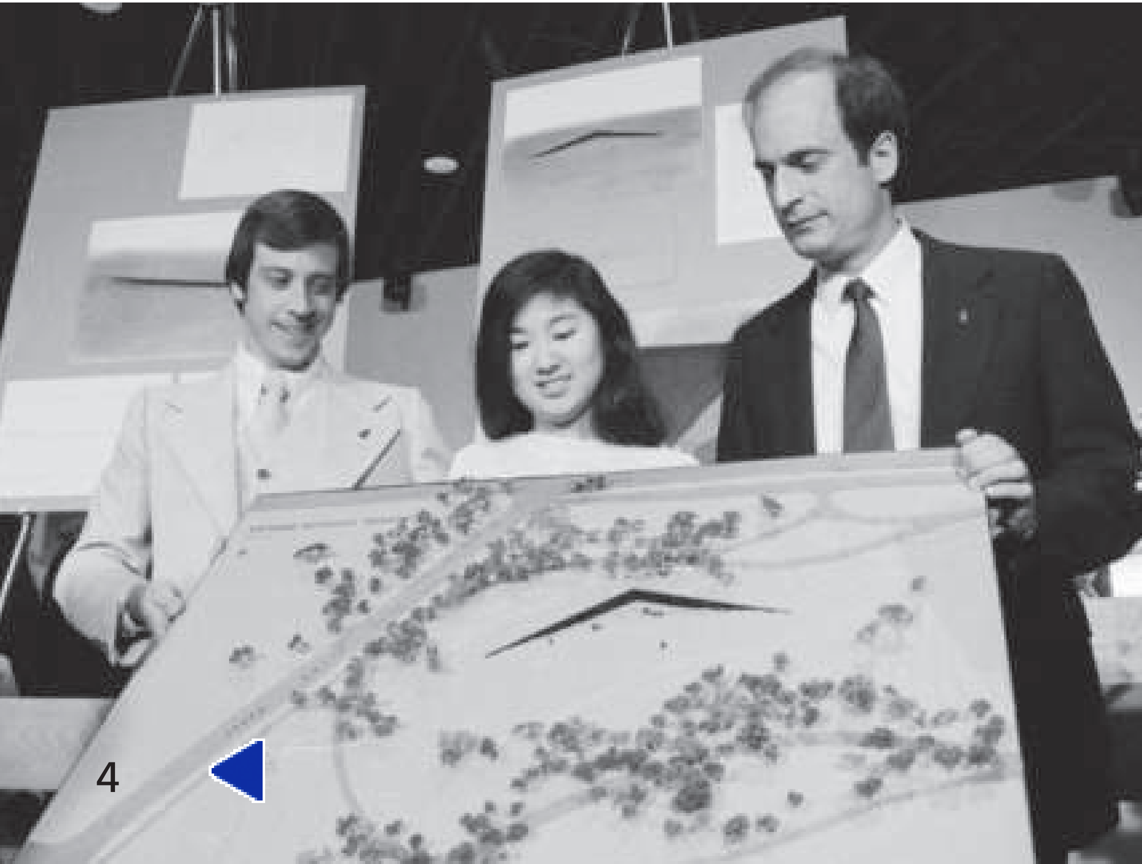


There were 1,421 designs that came in! Some designs were from famous architects and artists. Others were from sculptors. Many students sent in designs too.

The designs were displayed in a huge building. Numbers were put on the designs, rather than names, so that judges couldn't tell who had made each design.

The judges spent four days looking at the hundreds of very good designs. The judges all agreed on one. The best design for the memorial was number 1,026.

Design number 1,026





Maya was an architecture student at Yale University.

When the winner was announced, people were surprised. The winner was not a famous architect or artist. The winning designer was a 21-year-old architecture student named Maya Lin.

Maya's design was simple. It was a long, black V-shaped wall. It was made of shiny black granite. On the wall, the names of people who had died or were missing in the war would be carved into the granite.

granite: a very hard kind of rock that is used for buildings and monuments



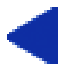

On November 13, 1982, the memorial was open to visitors for the first time.


The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on November 13, 1982. There were 150,000 people at the ceremony. Among them were many Vietnam War veterans.

People listened as the speakers thanked the veterans for their service to the country. A fence guarding the wall was taken down. People moved closer to the wall. They touched the names on the granite panels.

---

dedicated: set aside for a special purpose




People stood silently at the wall. The more they looked at the wall, the more details they noticed. The shiny black granite reflected their faces. It reflected the grass and trees behind them. It reflected the blue sky and the white clouds.

The design of the wall was simple. Yet it was very powerful and very moving.

---

reflected: gave back an image, like a mirror

moving: causing feelings or emotions


Each year, millions of people visit the wall.








People leave letters, photos, and gifts that have special meanings.


Millions of people have visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial since it was dedicated. They do more than just look and walk away. They stand in silence. Some leave flowers or flags. Many leave letters, photos, and gifts. These things are expressions of love for those who have died.

The wall is a quiet place. It is a place where people can think and remember. Most of all, it is a memorial honoring those who served their country.





Talk About It

1. Why do you think people were surprised when they found out that Maya Lin won the design contest?
2. How do you think the Vietnam War veterans and other Americans feel about the memorial?

Write About It

3. Why do you think people get sad when they stand at the Vietnam Memorial wall? On a separate sheet of paper, write about what you think.

Extend Language

The suffix *-ful* means "full of." For example, the word *joyful* means "full of joy." What do the words *powerful* and *thoughtful* mean?

Photographs
Every effort has been made to secure permission and provide appropriate credit for photographic material. The publisher deeply regrets any omission and pledges to correct errors called to its attention in subsequent editions.

Cover ©James P. Blair/Corbis; **1** ©David Muench/Corbis; **2** ©SABA Press Photos, Inc./Corbis; **3** ©Bettmann/Corbis; **4** ©Bettmann/Corbis; **5** ©Richard Howard/Black Star; **6** ©Wally McNamee/Corbis; **7** ©James P. Blair/Corbis; **8** ©David Muench/Corbis.

ISBN: 0-328-14184-4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 V0B4 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05